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HEALTH HAZARDS IN DUSTY TRADES.

In studies made of the health hazards in abrasive industries, it has generally been assumed that the mineral particles from the abrasive material itself are as important a factor as the metallic dust from the object subjected to the grinding or polishing treatment. And yet, heretofore, little attention has been given to the health hazard in the manufacture of the abrasive materials themselves. The following paper gives the results of careful studies of conditions in two large factories where abrasive materials are manufactured.

THE DUST HAZARD IN THE ABRASIVE INDUSTRY.

C.-E. A. WINSLOW, Professor of Public Health, Yale Medical School, Consultant in Industrial Hygiene, United States Public Health Service, and LEONARD GREENBURG and DAVID GREENBERG, Scientific Assistants, United States Public Health Service.

Incidence of Tuberculosis among Workers Exposed to Mineral and Metallic Dusts.

The conviction is growing, among students of industrial hygiene, that the incidence of tuberculosis among the workers in dusty trades is one of the gravest problems in this field.

The ideal basis for estimating the seriousness of industrial tuberculosis would be an analysis of actual death rates classified by age at death and by occupation. Unfortunately, data of this kind are practically nonexistent in the United States. A reasonably close approximation to the truth may, however, be obtained by a study of the ratio between tuberculosis deaths and deaths from all causes, ignoring the population exposed which is the unknown element in the problem. A low ratio of tuberculosis deaths (such as is found in the case of railroad employees) may not, of course, indicate a real freedom from tuberculosis but rather a special exposure to some other hazard. A high tuberculosis ratio on the other hand is almost always significant of an excessive death rate from this disease, since most of the factors which promote tuberculosis are of such a nature as to increase mortality from other causes as well.

Two important studies of tuberculosis ratios by industries and age periods have been made in this country—one by the United States Bureau of the Census for the Registration Area in 1908, and